

All jewellery is an expression of who we are. Last month I was looking at creating that individual unique look which often contains and even conceals a special message. The ultimate form of this is a locket, which is there to hold whatever the wearer so desires and it is these lockets that I am looking at this month.

Things to know about Lockets

by Sally Thornton

1. The word Locket is thought to be traced back to the arrival of the Normans with William the Conqueror and is probably derived from the old French word loquat, meaning lock or latch
2. Queen Victoria had a great affection for lockets, giving many to her children and grand children with early photographs of the royal family showing them. In one of these photos the 19 year old Princess Helena is seen wearing a locket on a ribbon close to her neck in the style fashionable at the time.



Silver engraved teardrop locket £68



18ct Yellow gold oval diamond set locket £1,480

3. So great was the influence of the royal family on fashion, that it became the custom for the groom to give lockets to bridesmaids at a wedding.
4. Lockets are still popular today and I'm pleased to say one of the British companies who supply us with beautiful examples is a fifth generation family business who are respected for their quality and unrivalled service.
5. The most popular is still the oval shaped locket and remains a timeless piece. One of our favourite oval lockets is the Hot Diamonds plain oval silver locket set with a star set diamond priced at £89.95



18ct White gold oval diamond set locket £955



9ct Yellow gold engraved round locket £345



18ct White gold heart shaped diamond set locket £1,550

6. Andy Murray's Mum, Judy, was seen wearing a locket at last year's Wimbledon final. It was an Egg locket from a small Edinburgh based company called Lilly Blanche, which I am pleased to say is one of our suppliers. Judy Murray is also a fan of this company's silver Birkin handbag locket.
7. What did or do these lockets contain? Miniature paintings were initially popular which were generally superseded in the Victorian era by photographs. Other personal mementos and snippets of hair also appeared to be common.

I have one very special locket given to me by my two children when they were only five, which has a personal hand engraved message on the back. So my locket holds a special story which I will cherish forever.

8. The expression Lock of Hair is possibly derived from snippets of hair kept in a locket.

9. Lady Hamilton's gold locket contained two locks of hair from Lord Nelson. Not surprisingly this was sold at auction in 2011 for £44,000.00
10. Elizabeth I's 'Chequers ring', a ruby and diamond locket ring, hides a secret and contains two portraits of herself and her Mother Anne Boleyn.
11. But what makes a locket so special? I have mentioned in the past that jewellery often has secret meaning waiting to be revealed. This must be even more so when the secret is hidden within the locket itself, placed there by the wearer or a loved one and worn close to the heart.



Silver ball locket £125



AA THORNTON

1/7 High Street, Kettering, NN168ST

Tel: 01536 513014 www.aathorntonjeweller.com

AA Thornton